



# County of Roanoke

## FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

RICHARD E. BURCH, JR.  
CHIEF

June 18, 2010

To Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Personnel,

Building on the success of the first National Fire Fighter Safety Stand Down in 2005, we will be observing the sixth stand down starting Sunday, June 20 – Saturday, June 26, 2010.

The International theme this year will be 'Fit for Duty'. Our focus will be on 'Wellness and Fitness' beginning with a Wellness and Fitness Overview. This will be followed by case studies of a firefighter's death involving wood beam construction and another as a result from an ambulance crash.

The purpose of the Safety Stand Down is to bring these cases to the attention of our personnel in order to reduce the potential of them. These deaths and injuries involve daily practices from our responses, and are often taken for granted.

Stand Downs have been used by military for years to correct issues that have been identified as a problem throughout the ranks. The department will respond to all emergency calls as normal. However, between calls, we are asking all of our personnel to take the time to review the information that Battalion Chief Tom Bier has put together, try to eat healthier and have an open discussion about firefighter safety in the department.

I look forward to your support as you devote time to this important week of safety dedication. As always, you make me proud of what you do for our department.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Burch, Jr.  
Chief